

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's objections, rejections and comments in the Office Action of February 24, 2005 and have prepared the following response.

Claims 3-7 remain pending in this application. Initially, Applicants express appreciation that the Examiner has indicated claims 3-7 would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2. By this paper, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 2, and 8-10, and rewritten claim 3 in independent form.

Enclosed is a newly executed Declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date as required by the Examiner.

With respect to the remaining dependent claims 4-7, without conceding the Examiner's position, Applicants contend these claims are allowable as a result of the dependency from amended claim 3. While Applicants have cancelled the rejected claims from this application, the cancellation of these claims is not to be construed as an acquiescence to the Examiner's position regarding the asserted references or the rejected claims. Applicants have cancelled the rejected claims merely to expedite the issuance of the allowed claims, and hereby preserve the right to again pursue the rejected claims in a continuation application.

Applicant believes that no fees are due with this response. However, if any fees are required, Applicant authorizes the Examiner to charge Deposit Account No. 03-1800.

From the foregoing, Applicants submit that the remaining claims in this patent application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously requested. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference with the undersigned is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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